

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 as follows:

An avalanche photo diode (APD) module 204 converts an input optical signal received at the optical input 206 to an electrical signal. In this illustrative embodiment, the avalanche photo diode module 204 is operated in the linear ~~regim~~region. The electrical signal from the avalanche photo diode module 204 is transmitted to a transversal filter (TF) 208 through a gain-controlled amplifier 210. The amplifier 210 feeds a N-way resistive splitter 212. Each branch of the splitter connects via transmission lines 214, 216, 218, 220, and 222 respective gain controlled tap weight amplifiers A_1 , A_2 , A_3 , A_4 , and A_N . The transmission lines vary in length by increments of 50 ps. The outputs of the amplifiers A_1 , A_2 , A_3 , A_4 , and A_N are connected through respective transmission lines 224, 226, 228, 230, and 232 to a 5-way resistive combiner 234. The transmission lines 224, 226, 228, 230, and 232 vary in increments of 50ps. For example, the signal into the fifth amplifier is delayed by 200 ps relative to the first and the signal into the combiner from the fifth amplifier is delayed by 400 ps relative to that into the combiner from the first amplifier. The output from the combiner 234 is passed to an amplifier 236. A timing recovery unit 238 extracts the timing signal required for the data decision and eye monitor 202.